

frauds. We had a very clever and accomplished lady for our mind-reader, and she surpassed Ruth Grey. Our telephone was of a special design, the receiver being concealed in the lady's waist, with a flexible speaking-tube attached to it which really increased the volume of sound and also made it easy to conceal the mechanism while tying on the blindfold. Our tablets were made up of separate sheets held together by brass brads which made it easy to take out any sheet and replace it again without leaving any suspicious clew. At the speaking end was a telegraph clicker attachment which gave a signal of distress by lifting one of the lady's heels from the nail. The experiment was successful beyond our wildest hopes, as evidenced by the general praise of all impartial observers, and the unrestrained wrath of the spiritualists, though we had made no direct mention of or attack upon the latter; but they instinctively felt that their cause had been much damaged in this community. The newspapers were loud in their praises of the enterprise, and the astonishment at the revelations we made was universal. Altogether we had great success, but the comments of some of the innocent dupes have convinced me that these frauds are not only simple impositions upon popular credulity, but they are positively harmful from a psychological point of view and ought to be fought by all honest men who are in a position to show them up.

"The next Sunday the local spiritualists, after challenging me through the press to perform some of my miracles under test conditions such as are 'always demanded by hard-shell spiritualists,' had two of their missionaries from New York here for a public lecture and demonstration of spirit return which was advertised as an answer to the Athenians. Our exposé helped to attract a big crowd which turned into the most disappointed and disgusted lot of people I have ever seen. Out of fear of us—I believe—they abandoned their slate messages and confined themselves to verbal blue book tests and a lot of general bluffing of a very crude variety. Both of the Reverend Doctors are extremely illiterate, and even the believers felt ashamed and afterwards many said so. The proceedings are hardly worth describing. At the conclusion, the Rev. Mrs. N. announced that her husband was a magnetic healer and she an expert shampooer and manicuriste, and would be glad, etc."

A LETTER FROM MR. PEIRCE.

To the Editor of The Open Court:

I wish to express to you my full conviction that your article on modern theology in the April *Open Court* is really great.

Your proposition that there is on the one hand a Jesus legend which is to be valued on the same principles as any other legend, but that Christianity on the whole is not that, nor to any considerable degree a development from that, but that it is a gradual common-sense evolution from a Christ-idea, seems to me to be a very great and vital truth, which I am all the readier to accept because it satisfies my internal conviction of the truth and dignity of Christianity. It at once raises our special religion to a sovereign position,—by basing it in that development of Human Reason to which all truth must be referred.

It seems to me to be a magnificent and truly great idea, to which I give in my adhesion for what little value it may have.

CHARLES S. PEIRCE.